

CPYRGHT

Our Man in  
The Kremlin

# Immorality of Russian Elite Disgusted Penkovsky

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Seventh in a Series

By Frank Gibney

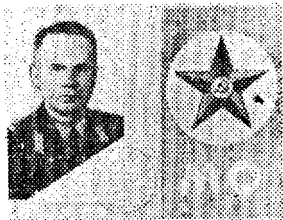
Late in the afternoon, one bright September day in 1961, a smiling Russian gentleman stopped to watch three English children playing by a sandbox along Tsvetnoy Boulevard in Moscow.

He handed them a small box of candy, which the children brought obediently to their mother, who was sitting nearby.

The Russian gentleman was Col. Oleg Penkovsky, the English mother Janet Anne Chisholm, wife of a British Embassy attache.

Concealed in the innocent-looking candy box was a package of exposed film, which Penkovsky urgently wanted to put in the hands of British and American intelligence, in the course of his extraordinary voluntary spy mission for the West.

The bizarre meeting with



the children was of course carefully planned. Penkovsky had met Mrs. Chisholm during his second trip to London and he had been drilled in this procedure by his Western intelligence contacts.

A few weeks before, the British businessman, Greville Wynne, Penkovsky's original contact with the West, had arrived again in Moscow to attend the French industrial fair.

In Wynne's room at the Metropol, Penkovsky had turned over film and several packets of highly classified information from the Kremlin files, as well as a broken Minox camera (he had dropped it during one of his nocturnal photography sessions). Wynne had given him a replacement camera and the little box of candy lozenges to use in the contact with Mrs. Chisholm.

## Risky for Foreigners

The meeting with Mrs. Chisholm was risky in a city where foreigners are as closely watched as they are in Moscow. Wynne, however, and Penkovsky continued to meet with impunity, because of Penkovsky's official dealings with him. When Penkovsky saw Wynne, he told him that he was about to take a trip to

Paris himself with another Soviet trade delegation, for the purpose of attending the Soviet industrial fair there.

As Wynne later recalled, Penkovsky seemed cool, self-possessed and happy in their conversation at that time. He was cheered by the way his intelligence information was registering with London and Washington and buoyed up, against the hazards of his

lonely espionage mission, by the thought that he was materially damaging the Moscow regime which he hated so bitterly.

In the following excerpt from the Papers, he emphasizes his disgust at the immorality of the Kremlin hierarchy.

## By Oleg Penkovsky

It is interesting to observe our prominent Soviet personages . . . What a difference there is between them when they are on the speaker's platform and when they are in their family circles with a glass of vodka in their hands.

They become entirely different types. They are very much like the personalities which are portrayed by Gogol in "Dead Souls" and "The Inspector General."

In writing these notes, I have intentionally omitted the subject of moral degradation and drunkenness among the top military personnel — because there are already too many dirty stories on this subject. I know one thing for sure, though: all our generals have mistresses and some have two or more.

Family fights and divorces are a usual occurrence, and nobody tries to keep them secret.

## Immoral Behavior

Every month at our Party meetings in the GRU we examine three or four cases of so-called immoral behavior

and lack of discipline among our officers.

The Party committee and the Chief Political Directorate of the GRU examine the cases involving generals and colonels, while those cases involving marshals are examined by the Central Committee CPSU. The Central Committee naturally discusses such matters behind closed doors, in order to conceal from the general public and the rank and file officers the dirt in which our high command personnel is involved.

Besides, marshals are not punished so severely as others. In most cases they are just given a warning.

The explanation for this given by the Central Committee is the same simple answer once given by Stalin:

"A marshal and his services are more valuable than a female sex organ."

Khrushchev has shown special favor to our Minister of Culture, the lady Furtseva. In the anti-Party fight against Bulganin and the others in 1957 Furtseva helped him a great deal; she worked day and night dispatching planes, and some say that she herself made some of the flights campaigning for support for Khrushchev. She is powerful, everybody in Moscow calls her "Catherine the Third."

Later Furtseva fell from favor. After the Party congress in 1960, Furtseva was

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ousted from the Presidium of the Central Committee CPSU. As a result of this, her husband Firubin was unable to go to the United States as the Soviet Ambassador.

#### Ouster Pleased Army

The entire Army was happy about the news of Furtseva's ouster from the Presidium.

At one of the Presidium meetings, she had proposed that the additional pay the Soviet army officers get for their respective ranks be discontinued. The answer to her was:

"What is the matter with you? You want to leave them without pants?"

What a fool! And yet there she was, occupying the post of Minister of Culture. How can such a person carry culture to the masses.

Take my friend Brig. Gen. Ivan Vladimirovich Kupin. He is Marshal Varentsov's protege and a distant relative of his; Varentsov's daughter Yelena is married to Kupin's nephew.

Kupin is the Commander of artillery and missile troops of the Moscow Military District. Prior to this post, Kupin served in the German Democratic Republic as commander of artillery of the 1st Tank Army.

#### Amorous Escapades

He was in a lot of trouble due to his amorous escapades. While in Germany, he lived with his cipher clerk Zaytseva. After Kupin's departure from Germany, she hanged herself because Kupin had left her pregnant. During the investigation, a photograph of Kupin had been found among her belongings.

Kupin confessed that he had lived with Zaytseva while concealing this fact from his wife; he admitted that he promised Zaytseva to marry her.

When he arrived in Moscow, General Krylov, Commander of the Moscow Military District, refused to see him, but, because the decision concerning Kupin's assignment had already been approved by the Central Committee CPSU, the case was hushed up. Varentsov persuaded Krylov to forget the whole thing.

This is the way it goes in our country. As long as the Central Committee approves, as long as one has connections, one can get away with anything, even crimes; but if a similar incident happens to an ordinary officer without any connections, he is punished immediately—either his rank is reduced, or he is discharged from the Army entirely.

Look at Krupchinskiy, head of the School for Nurses, and a friend of General Smolikov. They drink together and indulge in sexual orgies with girls attending the school. Krupchinskiy also provides girls for other generals of the General Staff.

Khrushchev's son-in-law Adzhubei got himself so deeply involved with some actress that it almost led to divorce. He was given a warning by Khrushchev himself to be more careful in his adventures. Adzhubei is the chief editor of the newspaper Izvestia, and every day he writes articles about Communist morality.

Yet, look at his own behavior. All the other journalists hate him.

Even Satyukov, the editor of Pravda, has slid down to second place after Izvestia. Adzhubei received a Lenin prize for his so-called "work" about Khrushchev's trip to the United States. This "work" was compiled and written by the Central Committee. All Adzhubei did was put his signature to it as its editor.

In our own committee in Moscow, Yevgeniy Ilich Levin, secret police (KGB) worker and Gvishiani's deputy, is a drunkard and dissolute man. The stories he tells about the cheap dives he frequents are hardly consonant with what the Party tells us about "Socialist morality."

After his nightly drunken escapades and amorous adventures, Levin invariably

sleeps until noon. Almost every morning Gvishiani looks for him:

"Where is my deputy?" Someone says: "He has not arrived yet. Probably he is at his other office (that is, KGB)." Gvishiani is afraid of Levin. He knows very well that Levin is at home sleeping off his rough night,

but he will do nothing.

The relatives of the highly placed do very well in our Socialist society. Almost all of the marshals' sons have finished the Military Diplomatic Academy. All of them would like to be sent abroad to work, but the government will not let them.

cer or something of that sort. He was released.

Marshal Konev's son, Geliy Ivanovich Konev, is a woman-chaser and a drunkard. He also is a member of that same group of sons of marshals and other high officials. He is a motorcycle enthusiast, and he loves to play the horses.

I studied with Geliy at the Military Academy. During that time Geliy had an accident while riding his motorcycle. He hit a man.

There is a special decree of the Central Committee CPSU forbidding the sons of marshals to go abroad. Many of them tried, but to no avail.

Marshal Sokolovskiy's son was given a 25-year prison term. He belonged to a large group of sons of marshals and ministers—some of our so-called "Golden Youth"—who had organized drunken orgies at their country houses outside Moscow.

At one of these orgies, a girl who had just come to Moscow from Leningrad was raped by the gang. She happened to be the niece of some minister.

After she was raped, the girl was placed in a car and taken somewhere behind the Byelorussian Railroad Station, where they dumped her. Because the whole gang was drunk, the driver of the car was driving very poorly. A militiaman noticed this and blocked the car. One of the boys in the car grabbed a pistol and fired a blank shot. The car was stopped.

#### 25-Year Term Given

This happened under Stalin, and he said, "I respect Sokolovskiy very much, but there will be a trial just the same." And so a trial was held, and Sokolovskiy's son was given a 25-year prison term. He stayed in jail only three years, however, and then he "became ill," allegedly suffering from an ul-

who later died. Papa, however, took care of everything and Geliy was not jailed. He was graduated from the academy in 1953, and is now working in the Information Directorate of the GRU, on the American Desk. He knows English well.

Gorkin, chairman of the Supreme Court, has a son-in-law named Lieutenant Commander Ivanov, a GRU military intelligence employee. (This is the same Ivanov who was connected with the Profumo scandal in England.) He and I studied together at the Military Diplomatic Academy. At present he is the Assistant Naval Attache in Great Britain. His wife is one of Gorkin's daughters. Ivanov loves going to night clubs in London.

As one can well see, all the sons and relatives of

our Soviet leaders and high level personnel are well taken care of. I have told only about those who work in the GRU. But the same thing may be said about those who are in the Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, the KGB and various other ministries.

All roads are open for them. They are the first ones who get promoted to higher ranks and better jobs. Everything is done by pull, through friends and family connections.

The newspapers scream that a struggle must be waged against such practices. But what happens?

They punish some factory director for giving a job to his niece, and he is criticized for it in the newspapers. But we must look higher and see what is going on at the top level. That is where all the big crimes are committed. It is they who set the example for the others to follow.

Condensed from the following book: "Penkovsky Papers," © 1965, Doubleday & Co., Inc.

MONDAY: Penkovsky is sent on a Soviet spy-mission to Paris, but meets secretly with Western agents; his revelations about the Russian spy network in Britain and France.